

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no _____

Property Name: Bush Farm Inventory Number: HA-2174
Address: 1416 Calvary Road Historic district: yes ☒ no
City: Bel Air Zip Code: 21015 County: Harford
USGS Quadrangle(s): Edgewood
Property Owner: Edward Pouska Tax Account ID Number: 075780
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 541 Tax Map Number: 62
Project: Section 200: I-95, North of MD 43 to North of MD 22 Agency: Maryland Transportation Authority
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Emma Young Date Prepared: 9/27/2006
Documentation is presented in: Harford County Office of Land Records, Bel Air, Maryland.
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description:

Bush Farm, located at 1416 Calvary Road, Abingdon, Harford County, Maryland, is a late-nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century farm complex situated on a 77.52-acre tract on the west side of Calvary Road. A long gravel lane leads west from Calvary Road to the domestic and agricultural outbuildings that comprise the farm. The property remains in active agricultural use and retains the feeling of an early twentieth-century farm complex with crop fields and pastureland surrounding the building cluster.

Bush Farm also retains a historic house (circa 1840/1890), and several domestic and agricultural outbuildings, including a hay barn, multipurpose barn, milk house, equipment shed, and a converted poultry house. Additionally, the farm retains features reflective of local trends in agriculture: crop farming (retention of hay barn and equipment shed).

Dwelling

The main dwelling, oriented on a north-south axis, is a two-and-a-half-story, circa-1880, frame, I-house dwelling with a rear ell, with the original core dating to circa 1840. The symmetrical façade faces south perpendicular to Calvary Road. The steeply pitched, side-gabled roof of the main block is sheathed in slate shingles. The steeply pitched, front-gabled roof of the rear ell,

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MHT Comments: *Undistinguished example of a common type*

Jim Turland
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/2/07
Date

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Reviewer, National Register Program

7/9/07
Date

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sheathed in slate shingles, features a centrally located, interior, stucco chimney. The frame structure is sheathed in asbestos shingles and rests on a concrete block foundation. A one-story, three-bay, shed-roof addition occupies the northwest intersection of the main block and the rear ell.

The south (front) elevation measures three bays wide. A one-story, full-width, screened-in porch extends across the front elevation and shelters the centrally located entry. The porch features a shed roof sheathed with asphalt shingles supported by modern, square wood posts. A poured concrete porch floor rests on a concrete block foundation. The porch has been enclosed by wood screens (in varying conditions of deterioration) and a wooden, screen door provides access into the porch.

The main entry consists of a single-leaf, wooden, pane and panel door. A transom, concealed with a wooden board, tops the doorway. Two, three-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden windows flank the entry. Three, evenly spaced, three-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden windows light the second story of the south (front) elevation.

The west elevation features two secondary entrances: one located on the main block and one located on the shed roof addition. The main block entrance features an asphalt-shingle-clad vestibule protected by a gabled roof. Access to the vestibule is obtained by a wooden screen door. A louvered window is located in the main block's half story. A flush, wooden door is located in the shed roof addition. Two, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden windows are located south of the door on the shed-roof addition. The rear ell's second story is lit by one, six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden windows.

The main block's north (rear) elevation, partially obscured by the rear ell, is lit by two-over-two light, double-hung sash, wooden windows located on the first and second stories. The rear ell's west elevation is lit by a three-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden window and a six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden window on the first story; and a two-over-two light, double-hung sash, wooden window on the second story.

The east elevation is flush and is comprised of two bays in the main block and one bay in the rear ell. The elevation is lit by numerous window types, including three, three-over-three light, double-hung sash, wooden windows; two, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden windows; and one, two-over-two light, double-hung sash, wooden window. A small, one-over-one light, double-hung sash, wooden window lights the half story.

Equipment Shed

To the northwest of the dwelling sits a one-story, six-bay, circa-1900, frame equipment shed, in good condition and currently used for storage. The exterior is clad in board and batten siding, painted red, and concrete block. The asymmetrical gable roof is sheathed in standing seam metal.

The south (front) elevation contains three, centrally located, evenly spaced, open bays divided by sawn timber posts. The easternmost end of the building is enclosed. A set of double-leaf, six-light, Dutch Doors occupy the westernmost bay and a single-leaf, modern, vinyl door occupies the easternmost bay of the eastern end. Two, single-leaf, vertical-board doors comprise the enclosed western end of the south elevation.

The east and west elevations of the equipment shed each contain three, evenly spaced bays. The southernmost bay of the east elevation is comprised of a six-over-six light, double-hung sash, wooden window. The center, window-like bay is covered with painted plywood. A single-leaf, wooden-paneled door occupies the northernmost bay of the east elevation. The west elevation contains three, evenly spaced, six-over-six light, double-hung sash wooden windows.

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Date

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Hay Barn

A two-story, circa-1900, frame, hay barn, currently used for storage and standing in fair condition, is located to the west of a modern equipment shed. A fieldstone and mortar wall located to the east of the hay barn delineates the boundaries for the former barnyard. Lush, overgrown, vegetation prevented a closer examination of the building.

Board-and-batten siding, painted red, covers the exterior of the building, the foundation of which was not visible. The steeply pitched, gambrel roof, clad in standing seam metal and featuring flared eaves and a hay hood, caps the building. A single-leaf, board and batten door is located in the second story of the east (front) elevation. The first floor of the east elevation, as well as the north, south, and west elevations of the hay barn were not visible during the field investigation.

Multipurpose Barn

A two-story, circa-1940 multipurpose barn, currently used for storage, stands in good condition to the south of the hay barn. The side-gabled building is comprised of timber frame, painted white, with a one-story, shed-roof, concrete block and frame stable addition extending off of the west elevation. The steeply pitched, side-gabled roof is clad in standing seam metal. A poured concrete slab serves as the barn's foundation.

The east (front) elevation contains three, evenly spaced bays. The first floor consists of three open bays; the northernmost bay is divided by a full framed wall; the southernmost bay is divided by a single, square, frame pier. The second floor consists of four-light, fixed-sash, wooden windows. The west elevation features an open stable area. The north and south elevations are devoid of openings. Wooden and metal fencing defines the pasture area to the west and southeast.

Poultry House

A one-story, circa-1940, frame poultry house, converted to a storage shed, is located to the southeast of the multipurpose barn. The steeply pitched shed roof, sheathed in standing seam metal, caps the building, which sits atop a concrete block foundation. A set of frame sliding doors, located on the south elevation, serves as the only opening into the building. The building currently stands in good condition.

Cow Shed/Milkhouse

A one-story, hipped-roof, circa-1930 cow shed is located immediately to the east of the former poultry house. A one-story, one-bay, hipped-roof milkhouse is attached directly to the west elevation. Both buildings are comprised of a combination of concrete block and frame. Asphalt shingles clad each roof, and the buildings sit upon a poured concrete slab.

The south (front) elevation of the cow shed contains four sets of frame sliding doors. The east elevation contains a single-leaf, wooden door. The north and west elevations are devoid of openings.

The milkhouse contains a single-leaf, wood door on the north (front) elevation. A rectangular vent is located on the west elevation. The east and south elevations are devoid of openings. Overall, the buildings, currently used for storage, stand in good condition.

Post-1958 Resources

The continued agricultural use of the property necessitated the construction of a modern equipment shed on the property. A large, circa-1990, metal pole building sits to the northwest of the building cluster between the circa-1900 equipment shed and the hay barn. The size and materials of the modern shed differentiate it from the historic outbuildings that comprise the farm complex.

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Historical Narrative:

It is unclear as to when the dwelling known today as 1416 Calvary Road was erected. Architectural evidence, such as the horizontal emphasis on the symmetrical exterior, indicates a circa-1840 construction date, although it is difficult to provide an exact construction due to the lack of metes and bounds provided with Harford County Land Records in the nineteenth century.

The property appears to be part of land owned by William F. Pannell in the 1870s. The property appears, along with a dwelling house, on Martenet's 1878 Atlas of Harford County (Martenet 1878). Through at least three transactions dated February 11, 1873, February 12, 1875, and April 16, 1875, Pannell acquired land in the vicinity of the hamlet of Bush (Harford County Land Records Liber 28, Folio 290; Liber 43, Folio 65; and Liber 31, Folio 456). Following the death of William F. Pannell, portions of his estate were conveyed to James A. Cunningham. The deed to Cunningham, dated July 24, 1882, was conveyed in consideration of \$5,000 (Harford County Land Record Liber 45, Folio 374). A deed recorded several weeks later, however, indicates that the July 24 conveyance "omitted something by mistake and included something not intended to be" (Harford County Land Record Liber 46, Folio 67). With the error in the July 24, 1882 deed, along with the lack of metes and bounds for the properties, it is difficult to determine if the dwelling at present-day 1416 Calvary Road was included in one of the three Pannell acquisitions described above, or if the dwelling was located on another parcel of land. Nevertheless, Cunningham's acquisition of the former Pannell land amounted to approximately 100 acres (recited in Harford County Land Record Liber 63, Folio 199).

Within the next five years, James A. Cunningham encountered financial difficulties. By a February 16, 1887 decision of the Harford County Circuit Court (acting as a Court of Equity), Cunningham's 100 acres encompassing 1416 Calvary Road was sold at a private sale. The July 11, 1888 sale to John T. Wilson, for which he paid \$4,000, was formally approved on February 13, 1889 (Harford County Land Record Liber 63, Folio 199).

It appears that John T. Wilson also encountered financial difficulties during his ownership of the 100-acre former "Bush Farm." Following a decree by the Harford County Circuit Court, the farm was sold to brothers William N. Skillman and Arthur A. Skillman. Likewise, the Harford County Circuit Court issued another decree, on September 4, 1930, that resulted in the sale of the property once again (recited in Harford County Land Record Liber 223, Folio 269). A slightly smaller 97-acre farm "situate at Bush" was sold to Joseph and Mary Soul in a deed dated April 19, 1932 in consideration of \$5,900 (Harford County Land Record Liber 223, Folio 269).

Joseph Soul died sometime following the Soul's acquisition of the former Bush farm. Shortly thereafter, Mary Soul parceled off five lots of land that appear to front present-day Calvary Road before conveying a smaller 94-acre farm to James and Annie Pouska on July 16, 1948 (Harford County Land Record Liber 319, Folio 394). Subsequently, the Pouskas parceled off a small lot of land prior to conveying the slightly smaller 93.3-acre farm to their son, Edward James Pouska on January 4, 1961 (Harford County Land Record Liber 570, Folio 81). Edward James Pouska currently retains ownership of the Bush Farm, which presently measures 77.5 acres.

Agricultural Practices in Harford County

During the second half of the eighteenth century, Baltimore emerged as the nation's leading exporter of grain, a ranking retained until 1827, when it was surpassed by New York. The position of Baltimore was enhanced in 1768, when the county seat moved from Joppa to Baltimore.

Prior to 1773, present-day Harford County was part of Baltimore County. After the creation of Harford County, the area excelled in grain production and was responsible for much of the grain exported from the port of Baltimore. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth century, Harford County specialized in large-scale corn and wheat cultivation. Harford County farmers often kept

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sizeable herds of livestock. In Harford County, the combined efforts of grain cultivation and animal husbandry required a diversified assortment of specialized agricultural structures including hay barns, stables, wagon sheds, milk houses, granaries, corn cribs, and hen houses that were not common in bordering counties.

The twentieth century ushered in dairy farming practices to Harford County. Consequently, dairy farmers expanded their multipurpose barns to accommodate milking parlors on the ground floor. Milk houses became commonplace on many early twentieth-century farms. Thus, the agricultural landscapes, including individual farm complexes, shifted with this trend towards incorporating dairying practices into the crop farming regime.

The Bush Farm exhibits evidence of this shift from crop cultivation to dairying. The farm complex retains the multipurpose barn, milk house, and cow shed from the early twentieth century, as well as the late-nineteenth-century equipment shed and hay barn reflecting the earlier crop cultivation practices.

Statement of Significance:

Bush Farm, located at 1416 Calvary Road, Harford County, Maryland, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a local example of an early twentieth-century farm complex. The retention of many historic features, such as the farm lane and surrounding pastureland, as well as the retention of the historic dwelling and outbuildings, combine to make Bush Farm exhibit a higher degree of integrity than many of the other farm complexes still present in the surrounding area. The farm retains features reflective of two local trends in agriculture: crop farming (hay barn, multipurpose barn, equipment shed) and dairy farming (cow shed and milk house). The architectural appearance of the property, with few exceptions, is decidedly that of an early twentieth-century farm complex.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

Bush Farm located at 1416 Calvary Road is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The property reflects Harford County's significance as a thriving asset to crop farming production in Maryland. The retention of the hay barn, multipurpose barn, and equipment sheds reflect the importance of the property as a lucrative farm complex centered on crop production. The property is also eligible under Criterion A for its reflection of the shift from crop cultivation to dairying that occurred throughout Harford County in the early twentieth century. The presence of the cow shed and milk house, as well as the expansion of the multipurpose barn, demonstrates the property's expansion into dairy farming.

Bush Farm is not eligible under Criterion B, as it has no known association with the lives of individuals of historical importance.

Bush Farm is not eligible under Criterion C, as the dwelling and the historic outbuildings do not demonstrate the architectural distinctiveness necessary to qualify it for listing in the National Register. The buildings do not embody the distinctive

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characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. None of the buildings represent the work of a master nor do they possess high artistic values.

The property was not evaluated for eligibility under Criterion D as part of the current investigation.

Integrity:

Bush Farm retains the association and feeling of an agricultural complex surrounded by pastureland on an active farmstead. In addition, the property also retains integrity of setting and location as the farm continues under active agricultural use. Although the agricultural outbuildings have been converted for other uses than their original intentions, the buildings retain integrity of design and workmanship. However, many of the buildings, such as the poultry house and cow shed, have suffered a loss of integrity of materials due to replacement doors and siding. Overall, the Bush Farm retains sufficient integrity of design, workmanship, setting, location, association, and feeling to convey its historic period of significance (1890-1940), and thus, deem it eligible for listing in the National Register.

References:

Harford County Office of Land Records, Bel Air, Maryland
1875 Liber 28, Folio 290

1875 Liber 43, Folio 65

1875 Liber 31, Folio 456

1882 Liber 45, Folio 374

1882 Liber 46, Folio 67

1889 Liber 63, Folio 199

1932 Liber 223, Folio 269

1948 Liber 319, Folio 394

1961 Liber 570, Folio 81

Lanier, Gabrielle and Bernard L. Herman

1997 Everyday Architecture in the Mid-Atlantic. Johns Hopkins University Press: Baltimore, Maryland.

Martenet, Simon J.

1878 Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland. Simon J. Martenet: Baltimore, Maryland.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee

2002 A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf: New York, New York.

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Eligibility not recommended _____

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Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

National Park Service (NPS)

1997a National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. United States
Department of the Interior: Washington DC.**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended _____

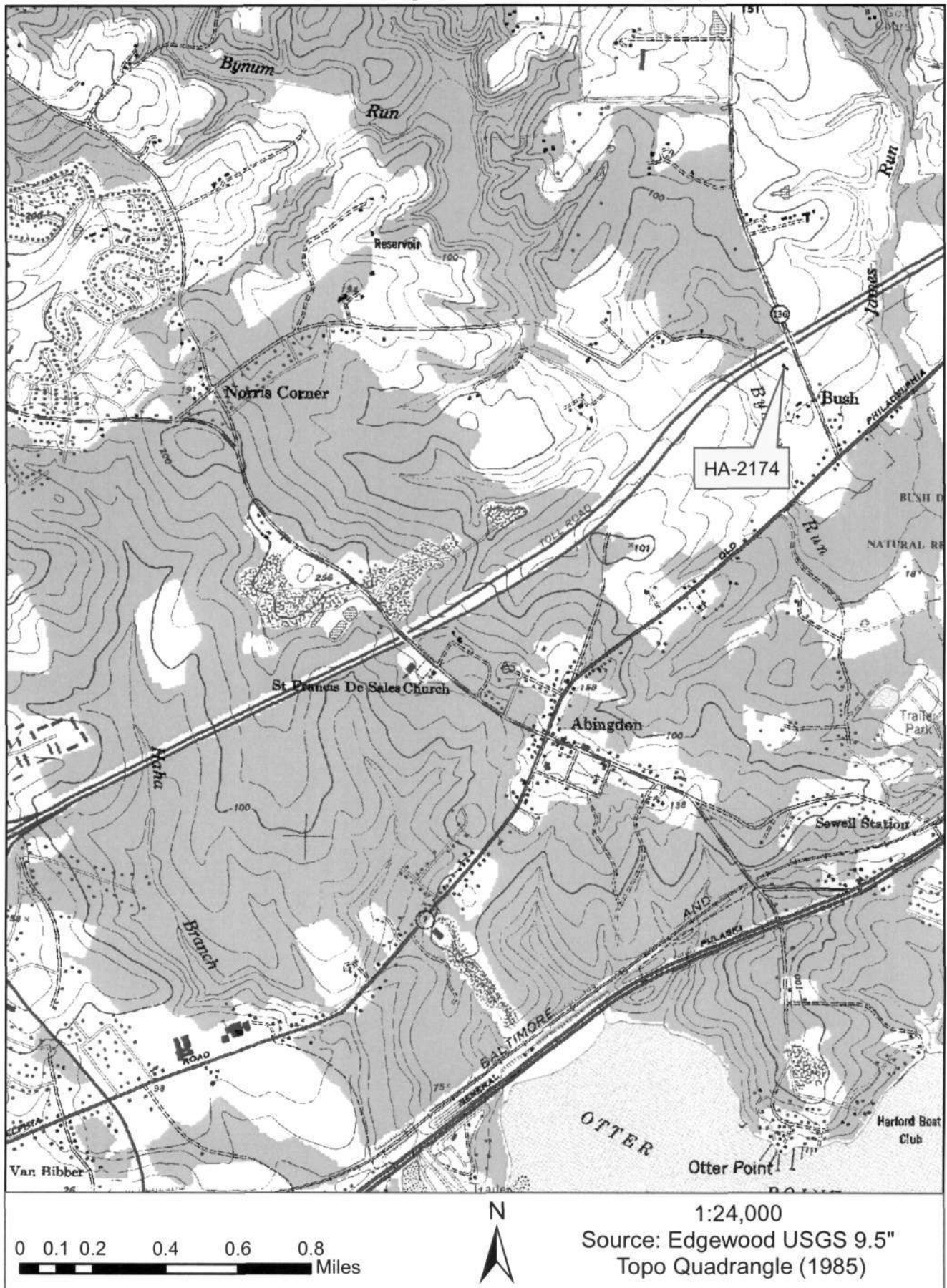
Eligibility not recommended _____

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**Bush Farm
HA-2174
1416 Calvary Road, Harford County**





HA-2174
Bush Farm
Hanford County, Maryland

E. YOUNG
08.2006
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Dwelling - south + west elevations - view to NE
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HA-2174

Bush Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Dwelling-west elevation-view to east

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HA-2174

Bush FARM

Harford County, Maryland

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Dwelling-north elevation; view to SE

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Bush Farm

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Dwelling - east & north elevations - view to SW

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Bush Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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~~Hay~~ Barn - east & south elevations, view to NW

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Bush Farm

Harford County, Maryland

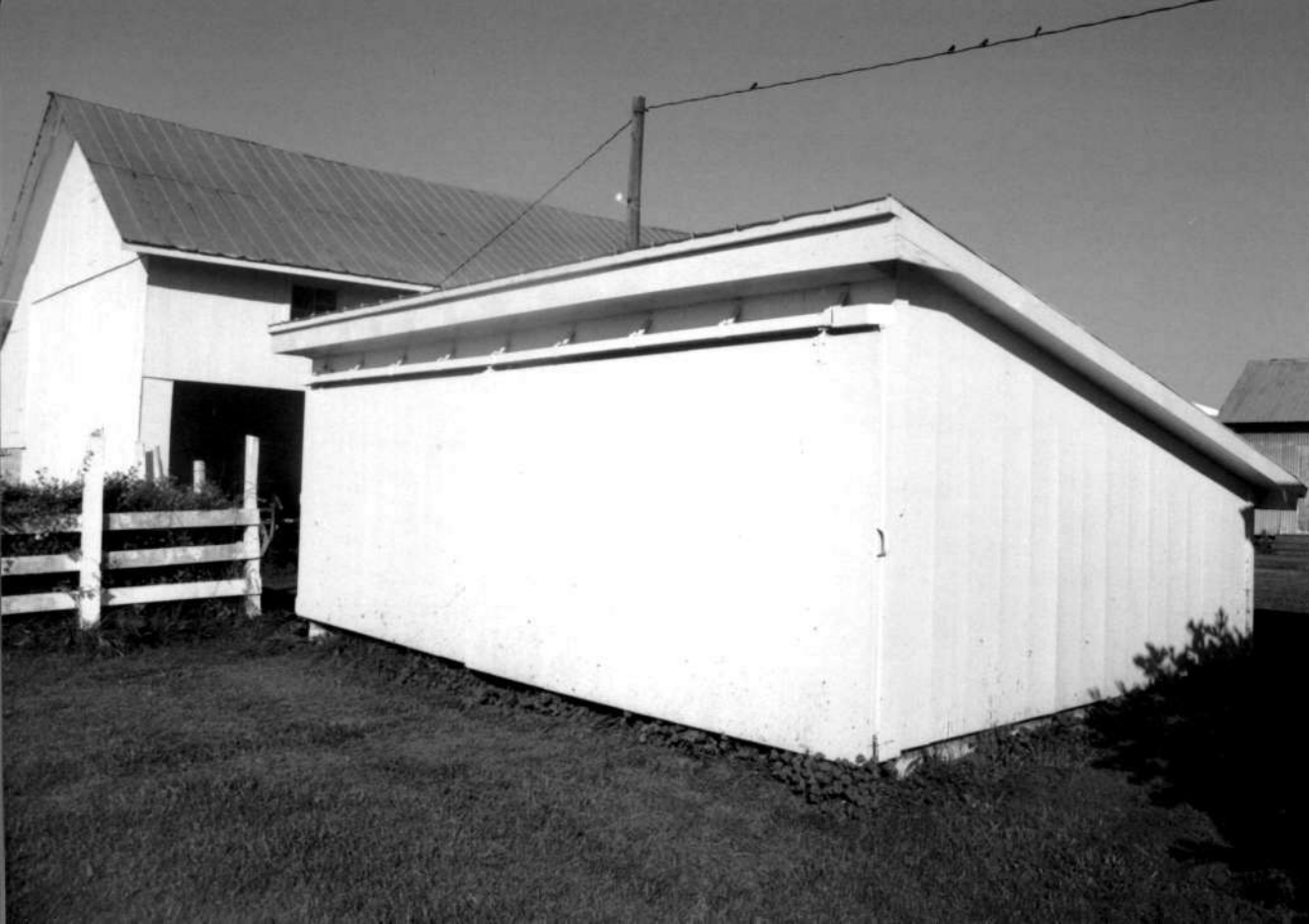
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Multipurpose Barn - north & east elevations, view to SW

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HA-2174

Bush Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Poultry House - south & east elevations; view to NW

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Bush Farm

Harford County, Maryland

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Low ~~Board~~ - north & east elevations - view to SW

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